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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-4

BHE

FEBRUARY 28, 1943

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Livestock numbers on farms at the beginning of 1943 were at an all-time high. Large increases in numbers of cattle and hogs more than offset declines in sheep, horses, and mules. In terms of animal units, the number January 1, 1943 was 5 percent larger than a year earlier, and 11 percent above the 1932-41 average. Total farm value of all livestock, including chickens and turkeys: 9,475 million dollars on January 1, 1943, compared with \$7,041 million a year previous, and a 1932-41 average value of \$4,402 million.

Cattle: A total of 78,170,000 cattle on farms January 1, 1943, compared with 75,162,000 a year previous, and 68,418,000 average for 1932-41. Total farm value of cattle at the beginning of this year: 5,445 million dollars, compared with \$4,140 million a year earlier and \$2,118 million as the 1932-41 average.

Milk Cows: Number January 1 this year, 26,946,000, against 26,398,000 at the beginning of 1942, and 25,316,000, the 1932-41 average. Total farm value of milk cows January 1, 1943: \$2,684 million, compared with \$2,056 million a year previous, and \$1,142 million for the 1932-41 average.

Hogs: Number on farms January 1, 1943 - 73,660,000, a sharp increase over the 60,377,000 a year previous and the 1932-41 average of 51,508,000. Total farm value of hogs at beginning of 1943: \$1,661 million, compared with \$943 million a year previous, and 1932-41 average value of \$416 million.

Sheep: Number on farms at the beginning of 1943 was 55,089,000 head compared with 56,735,000 a year previous, and a 1932-41 average of 52,386,000. Number of stock sheep decreased last year about 3 percent to 48,308,000 head. The number of sheep and lambs on feed decreased about 2 percent to 6,781,000 head. Farm value of sheep as of January 1, 1943 was \$533 million, compared

with \$488 million a year previous, and a 1932-41 average value of \$270 million.

Horses and Mules: The number of horses on farms continued its long decline, totaling 9,678,000 on January 1, 1943, as against 9,907,000 a year previous, 10,214,000 two years previous, and 11,409,000 as the 1932-41 average. Farm value of horses: \$774 million at the beginning of 1943, compared with \$641 million at the beginning of 1942, \$697 million at the beginning of 1941, and \$871 million, the 1932-41 average.

Total number of mules on farms January 1, 1943 was 3,712,000, compared with 3,813,000 a year previous, 3,922,000, two years previous, and 4,542,000, the average number during 1932-41. Total farm value of mules: \$473 million at the beginning of 1943, compared with \$410 million a year previous, \$420 million two years previous, and \$455 million, the average value during 1932-41.

Poultry: Total number of chickens on farms, January 1, 1943 was 540 million, a sharp increase over the 475 million a year previous, and the 1932-41 average number of 420 million. Total farm value of chickens January 1, 1943 was \$560 million, compared with \$395 million a year previous, and the 1932-41 average value of \$257 million.

Number of turkeys on farms January 1, 1943 was 6,549,000, compared with 7,623,000 a year previous, and 6,510,000, the average of 1932-41. Total farm value of turkeys January 1, 1943 was \$29 million, compared with \$23.5 million a year previous, and \$14 million, the average value during 1932-41.

FEEDS

Production of 4 oilseed cakes and meals - cottonseed, soybean, linseed, and peanut - totaled 1,783,000 tons during October-December, or 20 percent greater than in like period of 1941. Apparent disappearance of these feeds was 39 percent greater than in same quarter

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED¹

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JAN. 15 1943	FEB. 15 1943	FEB. 15 1943
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.74	19.68	19.84
Wheat, bu. ct.	117.5	119.5	141.4
Corn, bu. ct.	88.0	90.4	102.7
Oats, bu. ct.	52.5	55.5	63.8
Barley, bu. ct.	68.3	70.7	99.0
Rice, bu. ct.	174.2	174.7	130.1
Beans, dry edible, 100 lb. . . dol.	5.25	5.37	5.39
Potatoes, bu. ct.	117.8	125.7	114.9
Tobacco, lb.:			
Types 21-24 ct.	16.4	17.0	13.7
Types 35-36 ct.	15.6	13.7	11.0
Apples, bu. dol.	1.60	1.71	1.54
Cattle, 100 lb. dol.	11.78	12.36	8.67
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	13.60	14.18	10.80
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	14.07	14.63	11.63
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.04	13.77	9.41
Eggs, doz. ct.	39.0	34.2	² 30.3
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	22.1	22.8	18.2
Butterfat, lb. ct.	49.6	50.0	² 43.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	³ 3.06	3.06	² 2.63
Peanuts, lb. ct.	6.23	6.45	7.68
Peanuts, for oil, lb. . . . ct.	3.97	4.03	⁴ 3.76

¹Prices are shown for only those commodities except cotton for which 5 percent or more of annual sales are made by farmers during February. ²Adjusted for seasonal variation. ³Revised. ⁴Comparable price.

of 1941. Stocks of cottonseed cake and meal on January 1, 1943 totaled 93,000 tons, compared with 381,000 tons on January 1, 1942.

Total sales of *Government feed wheat* sold since July 1, 1942 reached about 125 million bushels by the middle of February, making it necessary for CCC to discontinue sales of wheat for feeding.

WHEAT

Supplies of *domestic wheat* in 1942-43 totaled 1,613 million bushels, consisting of a carry-over, July 1, 1942, of 632 million bushels, and a crop of 981 million bushels. With increasing quantities used for feed and alcohol production, total domestic disappearance this year is expected to be a record; present expectation being for a carry-over, July 1, 1943, around 700 million bushels. Wheat marketing quotas suspended for this and next year to insure adequate food supplies. *World Crop:* Present indications are that 1942 world wheat crop, exclusive of the U. S. S. R. and China, was about 4,225 million bushels, or about 250 million bushels above 1941 and 300 million bushels above the 1931-40 average. This crop exceeds annual disappearance and further increases the large world stocks.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Number of hens and pullets on farms January 1: 487 million head, 14 percent larger than last year. Spring hatch of chicks expected to be large. During January, 35 percent more eggs were set for hatching than in January last year. On February 1 farmers indicated intentions to buy 16 percent more chicks than last year. Total egg production during January was 11.5 percent above the record output of January last year.

FATS AND OILS

Production of *oleomargarine* in 1942 reached 426 million pounds, a new peak. Domestic consumption was about 2.7 pounds per capita, same as average annual consumption, 1937-41. In 1943 production of oleomargarine for civilian consumption may reach 4.5 pounds per capita. Total supply of butter and margarine available for civilian consumption in 1943, probably near 17.5 pounds per capita, compared with 19.3 pounds in 1937-41.

Prices of *peanuts* grown in 1943 will be supported at an average of at least \$129 per ton (nearly 6.5 cents per pound). Support price for *olives* will average about \$123 per ton for all types of olives. Total olive crop this season estimated at 58,000 tons, compared with 55,000 tons a year ago.

Stocks of primary fats and oils in factories and warehouses on December 31, 1942 totaled 2,001 million pounds, crude basis, 249 million pounds less than a

year previous. Stocks of animal fats and oils showed a reduction of 222 million pounds; stocks of vegetable oils declined 37 million pounds. Cold storage stocks of butter January 1, 1943 were 25 million pounds, compared with 114 million pounds a year earlier.

WOOL

Mill consumption of apparel wool in 1942 totaled 1,075,000,000 pounds (greasy shorn, and pulled basis); this was 11 percent larger than in 1941 and much larger than in any previous year. Consumption averaged 575 million pounds in the 5 years, 1935-39. About 540 million pounds of domestic wool were used in 1942.

FARM LABOR

Employment: Number of workers on farms, February 1, 1943, was 8,369,000, including 6,638,000 family workers and 1,731,000 hired hands. This February employment level is the lowest in the 19 years of records. Compared with February 1 last year the number of hired workers is down about 8 percent; number of family workers

shows practically no change. The drop in employment was greatest in the West North Central States. Supply and demand indexes showed reported supply of farm labor on January 1, 1943 at about half the average for the base period 1935-39, whereas demand for farm labor on the same date was about 25 percent above the average for the base period.

MARKETING MARGINS

Retail cost of the annual family food basket (58 foods) was \$427 per city family at January prices, up \$4 (1 percent) from December 1942. Marketing charges accounted for \$187 of the total cost. The farmer's share of the retail food dollar stood at

56 cents in January, compared with 51 cents a year earlier. Payments to farmers for products in the food basket rose more than 2 percent during the month, from \$234 in December to \$240 in January.

FARM INCOME

Cash income from farm marketings: January returns are estimated at 1,270 million dollars, up \$265 million from January 1942. Government payments totaled \$100 million, compared with \$111 million the previous January. Total cash farm income for 1942 is now estimated at \$16,138 million, of which \$15,441 million was from marketings (up 38 percent from 1941) and \$697 million from Government payments. Marketings were divided as follows: Livestock and livestock products, \$8,957 million, up \$2,507 million (39 percent) from 1941; crops, \$6,484 million, up \$1,666 million (37 percent) from 1941.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEX NUMBERS FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEXES	BASE PERIOD	FEB. 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	178
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	160
Parity ratio		111
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	164
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 171
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 223
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 367
RATIOS	LONG-TIME FEB. AVERAGE	FEB. 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	12.2	17.3
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	25.0	27.5
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.26	1.43
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	16.6	18.4

¹January figure. ²December 15, 1942. Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation.